

# LULAC NEWS

League of United Latin American Citizens

March/April 2001 \$4.50



White House General  
Counsel Al González



Housing and Urban  
Development Secretary  
Mel Martínez



White House Director of  
Intergovernmental Affairs  
Ruben Barrales

## NEW FACES IN WASHINGTON

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CORPUS CHRISTI,  
TX  
PERMIT NO. 92





# 2001 LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala



**Hon. Loretta Sanchez**

On March 13, the *2001 LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala*, celebrating our 72nd anniversary, will honor three of America's outstanding national leaders who have served the Hispanic American community. The National Legislative Awards Gala was founded in 1998 to highlight critical legislative issues affecting Hispanic Americans and to recognize the key leaders working on those issues.

LULAC Legislative Awards will be presented to California Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez and Empower America Director Jack Kemp. The LULAC President's Award will be presented to New York Senator and former First Lady Hillary Clinton.

Tony Plana, leading actor on the all-



**Hon. Hillary Clinton**



**Hon. Jack Kemp**

Latino Showtime series "Resurrection Blvd." will be Master of Ceremonies. Congressman Silvestre Reyes (D-TX), newly elected Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (D-CA) will also participate in the program.

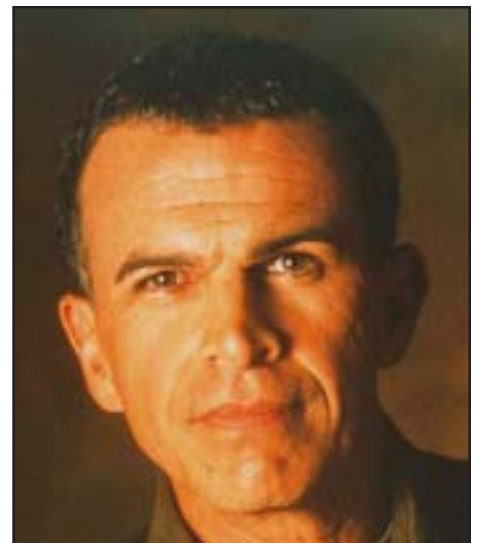
The black tie gala will take place at the J.W. Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, in Washington, D.C. The reception begins at 6:00 pm and the dinner begins at 7:00 pm. Tickets are available for \$250 per person (\$100 for LULAC members in good standing), with all proceeds from the event going to support LULAC's award-winning programs. For tickets or additional information, please contact the LULAC National Office at (202) 833-6130.



**Hon. Silvestre Reyes**



**Hon. Grace Napolitano**



**Actor Tony Plana**

# President's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LULAC:



Now that the new year is in full swing, the 107th Congress has settled into Washington, and the new administration is taking shape, I feel it is a good time to recognize those new faces who will take on the responsibility of shaping national policies and agendas for the future. We are pleased to see so many Latinos taking the initiative to step into the public forum and offer their expertise and dedication to the

Latino community and nation as a whole.

## New Blood in Washington

In the Bush Administration, we have new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Mel Martinez, who brings with him an array of knowledge and skills that will help to increase affordable housing for Latinos around the country.

White House General Counsel Al González, a former Supreme Court Justice in my home state of Texas, will surely provide the president with expert advice and counsel on a daily basis.

Ruben Barrales, a Silicon Valley executive, will bring his public service and management skills to the position of Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Most recently, Hector Barreto, a board member of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and chair of their Legislative Committee, was nominated by President Bush to serve as the administrator of the Small Business Administration. We wish him a smooth confirmation process in the days ahead.

I would like to congratulate Congressman Silvestre Reyes of El Paso, TX, who is now the new chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. We also welcome Hilda Solis of California to the House of Representatives.

LULAC looks forward to developing and building strong working relationships with each of the aforementioned individuals, in hope of creating a better and stronger nation for our fast-growing Latino communities.

## Fourth Annual Legislative Awards Gala

As we look ahead to LULAC's fourth annual legislative gala, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the distinguished and deserving honorees this year.

I have chosen to present New York Senator Hillary Clinton with the prestigious LULAC President's Award. Throughout her time as first lady, Sen. Clinton worked tirelessly on behalf of the millions of uninsured Americans, many of whom are Latinos, and for our nation's children. We look forward to more of the same dedication and devotion during her tenure in the Senate.

Our Legislative Award recipients are California Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez and Empower America Director Jack Kemp. Rep. Sanchez has been a tireless advocate for the Latino community and brings enthusiasm and energy to Capitol Hill.

Jack Kemp, former New York congressman, is responsible for spearheading the Empowerment Zones effort that has helped many Latinos and other low-income Americans find better jobs and improve their economic situation. All of these individuals have worked to help the Latino community and I look forward to honoring them at our gala on March 13.

## News from Around the League

The strength of LULAC has always been our membership. In every issue of the *LULAC News*, members' activities from around the country and Puerto Rico are reported in "News from Around the League." This feature allows current members to see what other LULAC members are engaged in, and also provides prospective members and sponsors the opportunity to see many of the wonderful endeavors LULAC councils are involved in.

In this issue, there are four pages dedicated to past and upcoming events that our members work hard to put on for the benefit of the community. I urge you to look over the calendar and plan to attend upcoming events in your area. The majority of LULAC functions serve to raise money for scholarships, food drives, and many other noble activities that our members participate in.

Sincerely,

Rick Dovalina  
LULAC National President

## LULAC Index: The Numbers Tell the Story

1 million	Approximate # of Latinos Missed in the 2000 Census
\$9 million	Amount Top-Paid Latina Makes for One Movie
\$20 million	Amount Top-Paid Woman Makes for One Movie
\$68.5 million	2001 Title V Budget for Hispanic Colleges & Universities
\$8 billion	Yearly Amount Sent to Mexico from Migrant Workers in US
\$32.4 billion	Secretary Mel Martinez's Budget at HUD

# Fresh Latino Faces Descend on Washington

## Bush Administration Includes Latinos Among its Diversity

As the Bush Administration kicks in to high gear, more and more Latino faces are showing up in Washington to serve under the new president. Bush's promises to unite the nation and create a diverse administration throughout have been thus far lived up to, perhaps more so than expected.

"We have always monitored the government, including the White House, to ensure that efforts are being made to bring in quality Latinos to fill important positions," said Rick Dovalina, LULAC National President. "While there are more positions yet to fill, so far it appears that President Bush is making a concerted effort to surround himself with Latinos and other minorities."

To date, at least three important decision-making positions have been filled by Latino candidates, with the possibility of more in the near future. Floridian Melquiades "Mel" Martinez was selected to serve as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), an extremely important role considering that the percentage of Latinos owning their own homes is still well below the national average.

Alberto González was the first Latino chosen for Bush's administration. As White House General Counsel, he will serve as the president's right-hand man on everyday important decisions that affect the country.

Third, Silicon Valley executive Ruben Barrales was chosen to head up the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs. His role will be critical as it will be his job to develop and maintain relations with state and local governments.

### Mel Martinez

Martinez brings a variety of experience and skills to his position at HUD. It will be his job to create opportunities for home ownership; provide housing assistance for low-income families; help create, rehabilitate, and maintain the nation's affordable housing; enforce the nation's fair housing laws; help local communities meet their development needs; and spur economic growth in distressed neighborhoods. He will be respon-

sible for a budget of \$32.4 billion and approximately 9,000 employees.

Martinez came to the United States alone at the age of fifteen, and spoke no English upon arrival. "I came to America with a suitcase and the hope of a better life," he said. "I know the value of home ownership because I have witnessed its great power throughout my entire life."

He was taken in by foster families until he was reunited with family members in Orlando. He went on to graduate from the Florida State University College of Law and practiced law in Orlando for 25 years.

He most recently served as the Chairman of Orange County, FL, the elected chief executive of a government that provides complete urban services to over 860,000 people. Before being chosen for HUD, he was in the midst of an ambitious program emphasizing public safety, growth management, the needs of children, clean neighborhoods, and improved transportation.

In his new role, he plans to continue reforming HUD and will pursue various proposals to increase home ownership among minorities. This includes allowing low-income families to use federal rental vouchers toward home ownership, providing tax credits to financial institutions that match the sav-



HUD Secretary Mel Martinez

ing of low-income earners, and offering tax credits to encourage the construction and rehabilitation of single family homes in distressed communities.

"Home ownership lies at the very heart of the American dream," he said while accepting his nomination. "I will work hard to ensure that every American has every opportunity to have affordable housing."

### Ruben Barrales

Known for his leadership and initiative, Barrales brings his grassroots experience to the national level as the White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. In his new position, he will be responsible for working with local and state governments and will serve as a liaison between the president and state governors and mayors of larger cities.

He sees himself as a portal and plans to coordinate efforts between the states and federal government to address the West's energy



HUD Secretary Mel Martinez with LULAC Florida State Director Armando Pomar at the Florida Inauguration Ball.



## President Bush on His Latino Appointees

"He's got a wonderful story. He was a refugee, as a young boy from Cuba. He understands American values; he's grown to appreciate them. And there's no greater American value than owning something; owning your own home and having the opportunity to do so. Mel is the perfect pick to run this important department."

— on Mel Martínez

"My administration is committed to working in close partnerships with state and local governments. I am pleased that a former local elected official, who brings such a strong background in the policy issues facing state and local governments, has agreed to head the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs."

— on Ruben Barrales

"I know firsthand I can trust Al's judgment because he was my first counsel as governor. Al is a distinguished lawyer. Al is a man who has only one standard in mind when it comes to ethics, and that is the highest of high standards."

— on Alberto González



**Ruben Barrales, White House  
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs**

crisis, and deal with the emerging issue of developing the nation's broadband infrastructure.

He comes from the non-profit organization Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, where he served as President and CEO. His job was to oversee an organization of business, government and education leaders that conduct research and create programs designed to enhance the region's economy and quality of life.

In 1992, Barrales was the first Latino elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. In that role, he distinguished himself as a leader who developed innova-

tive programs to deal with social problems that plagued local communities.

In his first term, he helped to reduce violent crime in East Palo Alto by 80 percent. He led the charge to create one of California's first public charter schools and developed an effective graffiti abatement program that has served as the model for other California counties.

He was a member of the Speaker's Commission on the California Initiative Process and an adviser for the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. Barrales is the son of Mexican immigrants and is bilingual in English and Spanish.

**Alberto González,  
White House General Counsel**



## Alberto González

González comes to the White House with an already strong working relationship with President Bush. He served as Bush's top legal adviser during his first term as Texas governor.

In his role as White House General Counsel, González will be responsible for advising the president on all legal issues concerning the Office of the President and the White House, including policy, ethics, and whether to sign or veto legislation.

He says that working with Bush in Texas for three years gave him the opportunity to get to know the type of man that he is and that he could not pass up the opportunity to serve with him again, this time on a much larger scale.

His history with Bush goes even beyond his advisory positions. In 1999 Bush appointed González to the Supreme Court of Texas, only the second Latino to ever serve in that role. He remained in that position until his latest appointment.

Prior to that, Bush named González Secretary of State, where he served as chief elections officer and the governor's lead liaison on Mexico and border issues.

He attended Harvard Law School, after casting aside dreams of being an Air Force pilot. "I wanted to be a pilot, but after being in the academy for two years, I changed my career goals and decided I wanted to be a lawyer," he said.

## More to Come

President Bush recently announced the nomination of another Latino to a high-level position. Hector Barreto, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board Member, was chosen as the administrator of the Small Business Administration. Barreto's position was not confirmed by the Senate at the time of publication, but we hope to feature him in an upcoming *LULAC News*.

LULAC will continue its push to create an administration and government that accurately reflect the growing percentage of Latinos in America.

# Education and Latino Society

By Gabriela D. Lemus, Ph.D, Director of Policy and Legislation

The single most important issue to the Latino community today is achieving academic excellence for Latino students. There are two basic issues to consider here in regards to the education of our young people.

First, as it stands now, the achievement gap for Latinos is too great when compared to those of other children in this country. Approximately 30 percent of young Latinos nationwide drop out of school. The danger here is that there is a clear correlation between generations dropping out. If the parent dropped out of school, the likelihood increases for the subsequent generation to also drop out.

Second, we have arrived at a watershed moment in the United States because public dissatisfaction with the current education system has reached a point of critical mass. There is a general perception that there is a need for reform. Now, we find ourselves in the midst of a debate about what shape that reform should take. The debate has hinged on issues like school choice, vouchers, and standardized testing. However, for the Latino community, the more important problem is to find new measures that address our specific concerns.

The American Association of University Women recently released a report demonstrating that both Hispanic girls and boys suffer from the same educational challenges. Results from the report confirm similar findings from the Department of Education. The report also highlights variations within the Latino community according to culture of origin and region. Another factor relates to immigration and time of arrival. There are indisputable differences between Latinos who are third and fourth generation US citizens versus those who have arrived more recently.

It is obvious that there are problems unique to the Latino community, however, these intersect with systemic problems of the current state of the overall educational system. True, Latino students face a set of variables that are both socioeconomic and cultural. But, the converse side of the coin is that many Latino students attend schools that

suffer from inadequate resources.

We know that children who have access to high quality education are able to get access to higher education. The logic follows that with an excellent education, a child is able to gain access to increase their wage-earning capacity and therefore to achieve the American dream.

Furthermore, the new economy requires new skills, new tools, new information and affordable access to technology. Latinos know this. LULAC knows this. The private sector know this and public policy makers know this.

Yet, even with all the attention on the importance of the new economy and the need for affordable access to technology, the fact remains that not enough has been done to ensure that Latino students get the attention that they deserve.

These gaps are further exacerbated at the lowest income levels and in rural areas. And, it becomes critical in regions that have not traditionally received Latinos.

We are witnessing a new phenomenon, the movement of Latinos into non-traditional areas. Increasingly, places like Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Arkansas are experiencing new challenges in serving the educational needs of Latinos.

Furthermore, in traditionally poorer areas like the border region, there are resource limitations that place additional burdens on local school systems. These areas simply do not have the funding available to handle the demands that have been placed on them as a result of recent population growth.

The bottom line is if schools are going to be able to create a positive learning environment for Latino students to achieve academically, they are going to need more resources.

Lastly, there is little doubt that Latino parents sincerely hope that their children will excel in school, yet Latino families' economic and social positions often place roadblocks in the realization of those dreams. These socio-economic conditions combined with school practices such as tracking impose low expectations on Latino students.

Public schools must address the psy-

chological, social, cultural, community, and economic factors that affect the education of Hispanic students. Otherwise, Latinos will too often continue to be victims of a second-rate education. This is an area where parental involvement becomes extraordinarily important. The public school system needs to ensure that all students open the doors to higher education and better paying jobs. However, they must also be sensitive to the unique needs of the Latino community to ensure that Latino children do not become throwaway kids.

The situation is not completely bleak, however. There are a variety of ways that ensuring academic excellence for Latino children can be achieved. There are many areas where partnerships and perhaps a shift in focus could have a significant positive impact on Latino students.

- **All adults need to encourage academic success.** Latino students need to hear from all the adults in their lives that college and professional careers are rewarding options and ones that they can achieve. Advisors must curtail tendencies to promote gender and racially stereotyped careers as well as ensure that Latino students, particularly Latinas, are not underrepresented in college preparatory classes.

- **Break down stereotypes and deal meaningfully with societal issues, such as teen pregnancy, gangs, and substance abuse, that impact school performance.** Childcare and alternative scheduling are two options that can help young Latino students, particularly for young Latinas who become pregnant. In so doing, we recognize that being a young mother and a student intent on completing her education are not incompatible. We also recognize that by providing alternative scheduling, children who have to work to help out the family are also respected.

- **Recruit and train teachers from the Latino community** so that there are educators in place who can serve as role models and who can better connect the educational goals of the school to the cultural background of its students. Latino students need to see education as a powerful tool.

- **Involve the entire family, especially the parents, to ensure that Latino students not only get through high school, but enter the process of college preparation.** Latino students need to be prepared early on to setting their sights—as early as the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade—on higher education.

(See Education, page 16)



# Objectives for the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress

By Congressman Silvestre Reyes, Newly Elected Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus

I am honored to have been chosen as the next Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC). I have had the pleasure of being a member of the CHC for the last four years and look forward to a productive 107<sup>th</sup> Congress. Since 1976, the CHC has been a leader for the Hispanic community. The CHC is relied on for direction and solutions to the many problems that are unique to Hispanics. Our goal is to work towards further prosperity for the Hispanic community and to speak out on Hispanics issues.

During the next two years, I plan to make economic development a very significant objective for the CHC. The presence of Hispanics in small businesses, corporations, and home ownership is more evident everyday. However, Hispanic businesses and wealth lag behind other communities due to a lack of access to capital, denial of loans, and lack of parity in government contracting. The CHC will continue to aid in the development of opportunities for Hispanic businessmen and women by making access to capital a legislative priority. It is important for the CHC to expand its contacts in the business community and ensure increased representation of Hispanics in our new global economy.

The CHC also plans to increase its involvement with issues pertaining to Latin America, specifically development and business. Governments and businesses in Latin

America are looking to the U.S. for cooperation and leadership on key issues facing the Western Hemisphere: economic development, technical and environmental support, social and insurgent movements, immigration, human rights, and drug trafficking. The CHC is in a position to be fully engaged in promoting U.S. relations with Latin America.

Another important priority for the CHC during the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress is to continue our efforts to improve education and promote greater access to higher education and technology education. Hispanic students have the highest school drop out rate of any ethnic group at 33 percent. Moreover, limited English proficient students' drop out rate is at 50 percent. These numbers are unacceptable. If we want to empower the community, we must start with our youth. We will continue to make sure that through legislation and appropriation requests, the necessary resources are allocated to support and increase the percentage of Hispanics completing high school and receiving bachelors and masters degrees.

The CHC will also continue to take action to close the digital divide. The world is increasingly relying upon technological advancements to move us forward. Information is progress and studies show that there is a divide in who has and does not have access to this technology. Studies also show that Hispanics are not keeping pace with other



population groups.

Unfortunately, Hispanics are the largest group of uninsured in the United States, with two out of five Hispanics under the age of 65 uninsured. During the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, we will continue to work towards increasing the availability and affordability of adequate health insurance for Hispanics and increase public awareness of Hispanic health issues within government agencies and the Hispanic community. In addition, the Caucus will continue to work to address the issue of health disparities that affect the Hispanic community, such as HIV/AIDS and diabetes.

Last year, the CHC played a crucial role in motivating the Hispanic community to fill out the Census 2000 forms. Our work is not over yet. During the next couple of months, we will encourage the use of sampling to adjust the census data to ensure that Latinos receive a fair share of government resources and political representation.

The CHC will continue to work on immigration policies that affect the Hispanic community, including family unification, declining number of citizenship applications, importation of guest workers and other temporary workers, delays in processing immigration and citizenship documents, and previously passed legislation that adversely impacts many families.

With the Republicans holding the majority in both Chambers of Congress and the White House, it will be imperative for us to work with other members of Congress in a bipartisan manner so that we can effectively accomplish the goals of the CHC. As shown, we have many issues to address this 107<sup>th</sup> Congress. I am confident that we will be successful in accomplishing all of our goals, and that the Hispanic community will in turn be able to take advantage of our accomplishments and prosper even further.



Congressman Reyes answers a young lady's question at an elementary school.

# “Compromiso con el Paisano”

## Mexican President Vicente Fox Looks to Reduce Costs on Money Transferred to Mexico

LULAC National President Rick Dovalina participated in Mexican President Vicente Fox’s “Compromiso con el Paisano” conference March 2, 2001, in Guanajuato, Mexico. The conference gathered Mexican banking officials and dozens of private companies from the U.S. and Mexico to discuss the issue of money transfers between the United States and Mexico.

“LULAC is honored to have been invited to this conference to address the important issue of money transfers,” said LULAC National President Rick Dovalina. “The companies facilitating these transfers have been making far too much money at the expense of hardworking individuals who are simply trying to create a better life for their family members back home.”

The event itself was unprecedented, as the Mexican government has been reluctant to get involved in U.S. domestic policy in the past. However, President Fox, along with Mexico’s brand new Office for Migrants Living Abroad, called for the conference to push for a reduction in the cost of money transfers

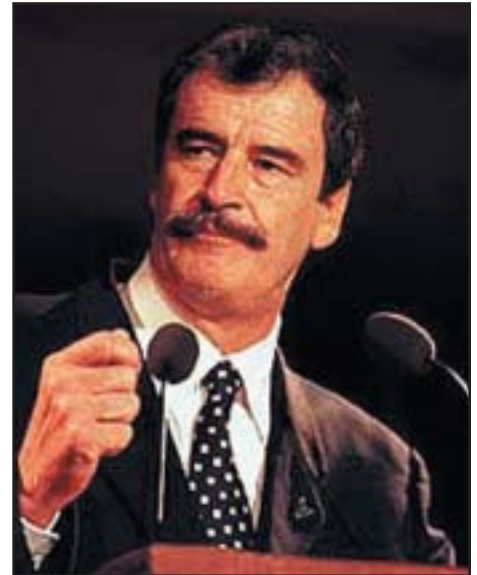
and announce the first step of a plan to move in that direction.

“President Fox is not only interested in Mexicans residing within its borders, but also those living in the United States and the migrant workers who give so much back to their country,” added Dovalina. “LULAC will do everything in its power to work with the Mexican government to achieve many of the common goals we share.”

It is estimated that as much as \$8 billion a year is sent to Mexico from its citizens working in the United States. This money is used mostly for basic needs, such as food, clothes and medicine. Those more fortunate use the funds to build new homes or start new businesses.

Fees for transferring money to Mexico can sometimes run as much as 25 percent of the transaction. Fox is working to cut this number down to 2 or 3 percent, which would increase the amount sent back to Mexico by hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

LULAC has played an important role on this issue in the past. Just last year LULAC



Mexican President Vicente Fox

supported a lawsuit against the major money transfer agencies, claiming that they were charging too much for transfers. The companies were ordered to pay some money back and provide coupons to many of the over-charged customers.

“This is not a new issue for us,” said Dovalina. “We have known about this injustice for quite some time, and with the help of the Mexican government, hopefully this time we can find a permanent solution.”

## Bush Administration Designates El Salvador For Temporary Protected Status Following Devastating Earthquakes

President George W. Bush announced on March 2, 2001 that Salvadorans residing in the United States since February 13, 2001 have been granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for a period of 18 months. Eligible Salvadorans will not be removed and can apply for permission to work in the United States during the designated period. The TPS designation is part of ongoing efforts by the U.S. to assist El Salvador in recovering from devastating earthquakes.

The TPS designation was made by Attorney General John Ashcroft. It covers as many as 150,000 potential applicants and applies to those Salvadorans who have continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001. The TPS application period begins upon publication in the *Federal Register*, which is expected early next week, and continues for 18 months after.

“The havoc caused by these earthquakes makes it extremely difficult for Sal-

vadorans to return home safely at this time,” said Acting INS Commissioner Mary Ann Wyrsh. “Given that reality, granting them temporary protected status is the prudent and humane thing to do.”

On January 17, 2001, the Salvadoran government formally requested that the Attorney General place El Salvador under the TPS program. After consultation with the Department of State and the INS, Attorney General Ashcroft made the designation. This consultation indicated that the extent of death, displacement and damage in El Salvador has resulted in a substantial but temporary disruption of living conditions, such that the country is temporarily unable to handle adequately the return of nationals.

All Salvadorans eligible for TPS must submit both an Application for Temporary Protected Status, Form I-821, and an Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-765, and supporting evidence to demon-

strate both Salvadoran nationality and also continuous residence in the United States as of February 13, 2001. These forms are available from the toll-free INS Forms line, 1-800-870-3676, and from the INS Web site, [www.ins.gov](http://www.ins.gov).

On January 13, 2001 and on February 13, El Salvador was devastated by two major earthquakes. To date, the earthquakes have resulted in at least 1,100 deaths, 7,859 injured, and over 2,500 missing. In addition, the earthquakes have displaced an estimated 1.3 million persons out of El Salvador’s population of 6.2 million, more than 80,000 whom are living in temporary camps. Losses in housing, infrastructure and the agricultural sector exceed \$2.8 billion - over half of the country’s annual budget. These factors have clearly resulted in a substantial, but temporary disruption of living conditions in El Salvador.

El Salvador joins Angola, Burundi, Honduras, Liberia, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan as countries currently designated for TPS.



# LULAC Virginia Helps Raise Money for Earthquake Victims

LULAC Virginia State Director Walter Tejada, along with several Northern Virginia Latino organizations, has raised more than \$150,000 for the victims of the tragic earthquake in El Salvador on January 13, 2001. The money will be used primarily to rebuild a portion of the more than 20,000 homes that were destroyed.

"This is not an abstract issue for us. We feel it in our blood, we have relatives who are affected by this tragedy," said Tejada. "We have collected \$154,700 so far and we have more money coming in."

Tejada, who also serves as the president of the American-Salvadoran Association of Virginia, initiated and helped to set up the LULAC El Salvador Relief Fund. He also was instrumental in organizing the radiothon, supported by three local Spanish stations, that helped to raise most of money.

It's not too late to help! To contribute to the LULAC El Salvador Relief Fund, please contact the LULAC Fiscal Office at 915-577-0726, or send a check to 221 N. Kansas, Suite 1200, El Paso, TX, 79901.

# General Motors Joins El Salvador Relief Effort

General Motors recently made a \$25,000 contribution to aid in the earthquake relief efforts in El Salvador, as the small country struggles to rebound from the millions of dollars in damage it suffered. El Salvador President Francisco Flores said the quake, along with the thousands of subsequent tremors, left 7,859 people injured, more than 45,000 houses damaged, and has left the small nation in shambles.

# GM and Vicente Fernandez Raise \$33,472 for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund

General Motors and "King of Mexican Music" Vicente Fernandez recently announced that they have raised \$33,472 for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF), the nation's premier Hispanic scholarship-granting organization that recognizes outstanding Hispanic American students in higher education throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

The money was raised from the partnership of GM and Fernandez during the singing sensation's 2000 Western U.S. concert tour. For the past 15-plus years, General Motors has been committed to supporting the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, with contributions nearing \$1 million to date.

In HSF's 24-year history, it has awarded more than 40,000 scholarships totaling over \$47 million. Money was raised specifically from a portion of ticket proceeds and an on-site interactive program conducted by General Motors, which sponsored Fernandez's 15 concerts in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico.

For every ticket sold to one of the GM dates, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund received a contribution of 50 cents from

Vicente Fernandez. In addition, GM created an interactive program called the "Measure-Up Challenge" that allowed concert-goers the opportunity to help raise even more funds for HSF.

With every concert-goer that took part in the "Measure-Up Challenge," General Motors donated \$1 to the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. To take part in the "Measure-Up Challenge," concert-goers simply signed up at the GM booth and answer a few questions by walking around and viewing the various vehicles on display. Participants in the "Measure-Up Challenge" not only helped further a great cause, but were also entered for a chance to win a one-of-a-kind, Vicente Fernandez Special Edition Silverado Truck.

The Vicente Fernandez 2000 Western U.S. concert tour kicked off March 18, 2000 in Tucson, Ariz., and proceeded on to Fresno, Calif., San Francisco, Denver, Sacramento, Pico Rivera, Calif., Albuquerque, Salinas, Calif., Phoenix, San Diego, and Las Vegas before winding up November third through the fifth in Los Angeles.

GM will use one of its latest Internet sites, GM Global Aid, to provide "up to the minute" news and information on the relief efforts. The mission of GM Global Aid is to provide immediate assistance when disaster strikes any place in the world. Visitors to the site can also make monetary contributions to disaster relief organizations. GM employees can access GM Global Aid through GM's internal web site.

"I would encourage the American public, and especially the men and women of General Motors, to take a few moments to log on to the Internet and join in the humanitarian efforts to assist those in El Salvador who have lost so much," said Rod Gillum, GM vice president for Corporate Relations and Diversity and chairman of the GM Foundation. GM is also matching employee contributions.

Donations are securely taken, processed and distributed through some of the leading

charitable organizations in the world, including the International Red Cross, United Way International, CARE and others. GM Global Aid can be found at [www.gm.com](http://www.gm.com) (click on "The Company," and then "Beliefs and Policies").

General Motors has a long-standing history of reaching out to communities in times of disaster. Since the inception of the General Motors Foundation in 1976, GM has always joined with organizations such as the American Red Cross, United Way, and Salvation Army in times of crisis.

Gillum adds, "GM employees have consistently responded to requests for donations and volunteer time when disaster strikes or when there is a need for help. In addition, the Foundation has responded to disasters that affect the GM family worldwide. We are proud to be able to provide some measure of assistance."



## Civil Rights Community Symposium Held in CA

LULAC's Far West region conducted the 2001 Civil Rights Community Symposium in Oxnard, CA, on February 24, 2001. The event featured nationally recognized panelists in the areas of civil rights, voting rights, education and housing, and was held in conjunction with the LULAC National Board meeting.

"It's great to see that LULAC members all over the country are engaging themselves in the issues," said LULAC National President Rick Dovalina.

## LULAC Tennessee Opens State Office

On January 22, 2001, LULAC Tennessee officially opened their state office in Memphis. The office will help to increase constituency services while addressing the needs of a booming Latino population in the state.

"We're proud to give the state of Tennessee a national presence," said Dilka Román, Tennessee State Director.

To reach the Tennessee State Office, call 901-795-0999 or email to LULACofTN@aol.com.

## Lubbock Council 263 Gets in the Holiday Spirit

LULAC Council 263 of Lubbock, TX celebrated another successful year with several holiday-season community events.

Over 200 participants attended the 14th Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner on December 14, 2000. The event was held at St. Joseph Catholic Church and featured a full course meal of barbeque with all the trimmings, served by council members.

Santa Claus' Mexican cousin "Pancho Clos" arrived after dinner and handed out goodie bags provided by local sponsors. That was followed by a dance featuring a local mariachi band.

On December 16, the annual LULAC Community Christmas Party was held at LULAC Hall. The event gathered local business and corporate friends of LULAC, and hundreds of toys were collected for local community children.



## The Christmas Spirit

Above: LULAC National President Rick Dovalina, Maria Cantú, and Angelica Landa display some of the toys collected for "2000 Navidad en el Barrio" at the 11th Annual Christmas Party of Dovalina & Eureste Law Firm in Houston, TX

Right: The highlight of Council 263's 14th Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner in Lubbock, TX, was the arrival of "Pancho Clos," Santa Claus' cousin from Mexico.



Below: LULAC Council 263 members enjoy the company of old friends as they dance at their traditional Community Christmas Party.







## First Ever LULAC Conference on Longevity Held in Puerto Rico

LULAC National Vice President for the Elderly Damaris Sifuentes successfully conducted the first ever LULAC Conference on Longevity this past November. The event gathered hundreds of participants to Bayamón, Puerto Rico, to discuss important issues facing the elderly population within the Latino community.

“One of the priorities I have always had in my life is to help the elderly,” said Sifuentes. “Part of my professional life has been dedicated to ensuring a better quality of life for our senior citizens.”

The conference, themed *Longevity in the New Millennium: Implications and Health*, addressed issues such as Medicare, oral health for seniors, maintaining optimism, and implications of the growing population.

It also featured many prominent speakers, including Lucy Arce, Puerto Rico State Senator, Ruby Rodríguez, Executive Director of the Office of Elderly Affairs with the Governor, and Rick Dovalina, LULAC National President.

“The goal and objective of this conference is to provide the opportunity for each participant to be able to continue contributing to society and receive the respect, appreciation, and acceptance they deserve from their fellow citizens,” said Dovalina.



Josefina López of the Puerto Rican governor’s Elderly Affairs office (left) and Puerto Rico State Senator Lucy Arce (right) present resolutions honoring LULAC to LULAC Vice President for Elderly Damaris Sifuentes and LULAC National President Rick Dovalina.

## LULAC Illinois Creates Civil Rights Commission

LULAC Illinois has recently announced the formation of a Civil Rights Commission that will serve as a vigilante vanguard to monitor and protect the civil rights of all Hispanics living in the state. The commission will be chaired by Illinois Assistant Attorney General J. Scott Sybolt.

“Mr. Sybolt has impeccable credentials and a strong background in the Hispanic community,” said Blanca Vargas, Illinois State

Director. “He is one of the best lawyers and his contributions will be of great benefit to all people of color.”

Sybolt holds five academic degrees and was selected as “Most Distinguished Minority Citizen of the Year” in 2000.

“Blanca has carried the torch of the LULAC founding fathers,” said Sybolt. “Her hard work and endless dedication has increased the political and economic strength of all Hispanics living in Illinois.”

Vargas is also planning to launch a Business Advisory Council later in the year.



Verizon’s Victor Cabral (left) with LNESCS’s Colleen Davis and Rich Roybal.



Illinois State Director Blanca Vargas (rear; second from right) visits with friends at a special Christmas dinner for local senior citizens.



## LULAC 2001 Calendar of Events

### Costa Mesa, CA

**What:** *Second Annual Health Fair*  
LULAC's Irvine, Huntington Beach and San Juan Capistrano councils come together to provide information on health, education, human rights and much more.  
**When:** March 3, 2001; 9:30am – 1:30pm.  
**Where:** St. John's Baptist Church  
Call Elvira Diaz at 714-965-1151

### Washington, DC

**What:** *LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala*; LULAC's annual awards dinner highlighting issues critical to the Latino community and honoring public servants who have served the Latino community well.  
Presented by the LULAC National Office.  
**When:** March 13, 2001  
**Where:** J.W. Marriott Hotel  
Call Jessica Rivera at 202-833-6130

### Tucson, AZ

**What:** *12th Annual Educators Banquet*  
**When:** March 15, 2001  
**Where:** Tucson Convention Center  
Call Richard Fimbres at 520-903-2838

### Sacramento, CA

**What:** *Celebration of Our Cultures Dance*  
Latinos and Hawaiian groups come together to celebrate diversity and raise money.  
Presented by LULAC Lorenzo Patiño Council 2862 and Hawaiian dance groups. \$20 per ticket.  
**When:** March 17, 2001; 5-11 pm  
**Where:** Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6  
Call Frank Salmon at 916-991-9118

### San Antonio, TX

**What:** *Latinas in Action Conference 2001*  
Issues Conference and Job Fair; Presented by Rosa Rosales, National VP for Women. \$25 per registration.  
**When:** March 23-24, 2001  
**Where:** UT-San Antonio Downtown  
Fax to 210-733-5641 or email  
OscarSMoran@aol.com

### Michigan City, IN

**What:** *Spring Scholarship Dance*  
Presented by LULAC Council 5006.  
**When:** March 24, 2001  
**Where:** Blue Chip Casino Ballroom  
Call Arturo Pozos at 219-787-3607

### Austin, TX

**What:** *Texas LULAC Legislative Awards Gala*; Dinner honoring Texas public servants who have worked on behalf of Hispanics in the state; Texas Governor Rick Perry to keynote the event.  
Presented by the Texas State Office.  
**When:** March 30, 2001  
**Where:** Omni South Hotel  
Call Dr. Vincent Ramos at 512-477-7910

### Randolph, MA

**What:** *"LULAC is Smoke-Free" Sweetheart Gala & Annual Fundraiser*  
**When:** April 5, 2001; 6-12 pm  
**Where:** Lombardo's  
Call Regla González at 617-327-6760

### Fort Wayne, IN

**What:** *Indiana State Convention*  
**When:** April 28, 2001  
**Where:** Fort Wayne Marriott Hotel  
Call Alicia Rios at 219-886-3728

### Boston, MA

**What:** *Massachusetts State Convention*  
**When:** May 2, 2001  
**Where:** MSPCA Conference Room  
Call Sara Barrientos at 781-595-5429

### Memphis, TN

**What:** *Tennessee State Convention*  
**When:** May 3-5, 2001  
**Where:** TBD  
Call Amparo Chavarro at 901-795-0999

### San Marcos, TX

**What:** *Viva! Cinco de Mayo & State Menudo Cook-off*; Three-day event featuring food booths, dances, parade, and Miss Cinco de Mayo Pageant.  
Presented by LULAC Council 654.  
**When:** May 3-5, 2001  
**Where:** Hays County Civic Center  
Call (512) 353-VIVA

### Sport, LA

**What:** *Cinco de Mayo Festival*  
Presented by LULAC Council 16001.  
**When:** May 4-5, 2001  
**Where:** Festival Plaza  
Call Maria Murphy at 318-747-4784

### Denton, TX

**What:** *LULAC National Young Women's Conference*  
**When:** May 5, 2001  
**Where:** Texas Women's University  
Call Victoria Neave at 214-398-3323

### Merrillville, IN

**What:** *Cinco de Mayo Scholarship Dance*  
Presented by LULAC Council 5009.  
**When:** May 5, 2001  
**Where:** St. Joan of Arc Church Hall  
Call Ricardo Paz at 219-769-4641

### Portland, ME

**What:** *Civil Rights Conference*  
**When:** May 5, 2001; 9 am-6 pm  
**Where:** TBD  
Call John Connors at 207-767-3642

### Scottsdale, AZ

**What:** *Arizona State Convention*  
**When:** May 5, 2001  
**Where:** Holiday Inn Scottsdale  
Call Veronica Mier at 602-990-2136

### Isla Verde, PR

**What:** *Puerto Rico State Convention*  
**When:** May 6, 2001  
**Where:** TBD  
Call Elsie Valdes at 787-858-6249

### Cicero, IL

**What:** *Illinois State Convention*  
**When:** May 12, 2001  
**Where:** Morton East High School  
Call Blanca Vargas at 708-656-6147

### Brooklyn, NY

**What:** *New York State Convention*  
**When:** May 13, 2001: 2-6 pm  
**Where:** Latinos Americanos Unidos  
Call Wilfredo Santiago at 718-601-0881





## Santa Ana, CA

**What:** *California State Convention*

**When:** May 18-20, 2001

**Where:** TBD

Call Mickie Luna at 1-877-77LULAC

## Miami, FL

**What:** *Florida State Convention*

Held in conjunction with Cuban Independence Day.

**When:** May 20, 2001

**Where:** TBD

Call Armando Pomar at 305-261-5341

## Laredo, TX

**What:** *Texas State Convention*

**When:** May 31-June 4, 2001

**Where:** La Posada Hotel

Call Carina Castillo at 713-643-4222

## Chesterton, IN

**What:** *Hometown Picnic*

Presented by LULAC Council 5016.

**When:** June 25, 2001; 11am – 3pm

**Where:** Coffee Creek Park

Call Victor Valdez at 219-926-5160

## Michigan City, IN

**What:** *Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser*

Presented by LULAC Council 5006.

**When:** July 7, 2001

**Where:** Moose Lodge #980

Call Arturo Pozos at 219-787-3607

## Porter, IN

**What:** *LULAC 2001 Scholarship Dance*

Presented by LULAC Council 5016.

**When:** August 11, 2001

**Where:** Hawthorne Park Pavilion

Call Victor Valdez at 219-926-5160

## Los Angeles to Baja California

**What:** *3-day Cruise Vacation from Los Angeles, CA to Baja California, Mexico*

Presented by LULAC Council 2848.

**When:** September 14-17, 2001

Call Sue at 714-630-7270

## Merrillville, IN

**What:** *Jammin' Oldies Scholarship Dance*

Presented by LULAC Council 5009.

**When:** October 27, 2001

**Where:** St. Joan of Arc Church Hall

Call Ricardo Paz at 219-769-4641

## College Board Chooses Dallas LNEESC Center as "Equity Partner"

The LULAC National Educational Service Center in Dallas, TX, has been chosen by the College Board as an "equity partner." The title refers to organizations who serve to augment the strained school-based counseling and education services students receive by providing specialized programs in community-based settings.

The College Board is a 100-year-old, not-for-profit membership association. The mission of the College Board is to prepare, inspire, and connect students to college and opportunity. Its members include more than 3,800 schools, colleges, universities, and

other educational associations.

The designation also came with a \$35,000 donation that will be used to further the efforts of Dallas LNEESC.

"We are extremely proud to receive such an outstanding award from one of the most prestigious organizations in this country," said Rey de los Santos, director of the Dallas LNEESC. "We will continue to serve the Dallas Latino community to ensure our youth obtain access to higher education."

"Institutions like the College Board have helped to open up the doors of opportunity," said Hector Flores, LULAC National Treasurer and chair of the LNEESC National Board. "They are more receptive to the unique characteristics of the Latino community at large and this only means a brighter America in the future."



LULAC receives recognition from Latinos Americanos Unidos for the opening of a LULAC Community Technology Center in Brooklyn. L-R: Vicente Trinidad, President of Latinos Americanos Unidos; Regla González, LULAC National VP for the Northeast; Sonia Santiago, LULAC member; Brent Wilkes, LULAC National Executive Director; and Wilfredo Santiago, LULAC Council President.



Finalists in the Señorita LULAC contest in Boston, MA. L-R: Natalie Martínez, Katherine Martínez, Cristal Ruíz, Melissa Ferreira, and Carmen Arias.

## Hispanic Internet Summit on the Horizon

The League of United Latin American Citizens has joined the Hispanic National Bar Association, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the National Society of Hispanic MBAs, to present the inaugural *Hispanic Internet Summit: The Leadership Forum for Hispanics in the New Economy*. The event will happen April 26-28, 2001, at the Inter-Continental Resort and Casino in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The summit will gather business leaders, attorneys and policymakers to identify the wealth of new opportunities and challenges presented by the new economy, and explore the latest developments in the Internet industry – particularly after a year that has brought seismic shifts to the Internet landscape worldwide.

The summit will focus on business, legal and policy issues concerning the Hispanic market in the United States and in Latin America. What are the emerging issues? Who will be the key players? What do you need to know to stay ahead of the curve? Critical insights into these and many other important questions will be addressed and discussed.

By now you have heard that Hispanics are poised to become the largest minority group in the United States by 2003, and you have heard about the exponential growth of the Latin American Internet market. Those are not events slated to happen in the distant future – they are happening *right now!* By attending the *Hispanic Internet Summit*, you will gain unparalleled access to the industry leaders and the decision makers who will shape the course of the new economy for years to come.

The event will provide an exclusive forum for business leaders, attorneys and policymakers to discuss the most important issues affecting the new economy today. Whether it's e-business and capital markets, e-procurement, the digital divide, the future of intellectual property on the Web, or international policy issues affecting the Internet, you can be sure that these topics – and many more – will be covered.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Andrés W. López, Conference Chair, at <lopez@post.harvard.edu>, or by phone at 787-772-3177.

## House Education Committee Segregates Latino Education

The U.S. House Education Committee recently placed Hispanic Serving Institutions and Universities (HSIs) under the newly created Subcommittee for Select Education, placing them in the same category as juvenile justice and programs aimed at combating delinquency, youth violence and child abuse. Hispanic institutions are separated from other mainstream colleges and universities, which fall under the Subcommittee on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competitiveness.

“It is inconceivable to me that at the same time as the president proclaims a message of unity and affirmative access regarding education, that congressional leaders would behave in such an exclusionary and insensitive manner. The move clearly contradicts President Bush’s efforts to foster an inclusive environment,” said Rick Dovalina, LULAC National President. “By placing HSIs in a separate category from mainstream higher education institutions and then, additionally, placing them on par with programs to combat social delinquency, stigmatizes the academic integrity of these es-

tablishments – and, by extension, all Hispanic students.”

By the decision, the new Subcommittee for Select Education will also oversee programs that help fund Black colleges and universities. The Subcommittee on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competitiveness will handle other higher education issues, as well as programs aimed at training teachers and boosting science and technology studies.

“Separating Hispanic schools from mainstream institutions sends a red flag to our community. The House committee on education is telling Hispanics that minority post-secondary education is a social problem that must be corrected,” added Dovalina. “To put Hispanic and other minority institutions under the title of ‘select education’ while mainstream schools are under the jurisdiction of ‘21<sup>st</sup> century competitiveness’ sends an anti-inclusive message.”

According to the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, HSIs enroll 46 percent of all Hispanic students in undergraduate programs.

## National Hispanic Leadership Agenda Releases Congressional Scorecard

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) recently released its congressional scorecard for the second session of the 106th Congress. The document serves to rate members of the House and Senate based on

how they voted on the most important issues facing the Latino community.

NHLA is an umbrella organization that encompasses all the national Latino organizations as well as distinguished individuals. To see a copy of the scorecard, log on to LULAC’s website at <www.lulac.org>.

### (Education, continued from page 8)

College requirements need to be more user-friendly and families need to understand longer-term benefits of attending college even if it means moving away from home.

- **Expand community-based organizations like the LNESOC educational centers, which begin working with students at a young age and prepare them to move on to college.** Programs like “Talent Search” prepare students to take exams and remove some of the intimidation through targeted preparation for the SATs and ACTs.

- **Ensure that schools with a large Latino population have access to resources, both financial and technological.** Many of the schools with high proportions of Latino students simply do not have the basics, such as sufficient computers and

high-speed Internet access. We should encourage lawmakers to pass legislation that takes into account the special needs of the community.

- **Lastly, figure out ways to ensure that Latino students learn about scholarship funds.** Because a large number of Latino students are on the lower end of the socio-economic scale, it is important to help Latino youth identify and gain access to programs that will help them defray some of the costs of university study.

With nearly 32 million Hispanics in the United States, representing over 10 percent of the labor force and nearly 40 percent of all minority-owned businesses, Hispanics cannot afford to be left behind or the entire country risks being left behind.



# Book Review

## HISPANIC CULTURE AND RELIGION IN ONE OF THE "WHITEST" STATES IN THE NATION

In Utah, unlike most other states, new arrivals can connect with the most powerful institution in the state simply by embracing a set of spiritual beliefs, according to Jorge Iber in *Hispanics in the Mormon Zion, 1912-1999*. In this work, Iber looks at Hispanics' history and culture in Utah and examines the impact of their widespread conversion from Catholicism to Mormonism.

Hispanics began migrating to Utah in the early 1900s seeking work in the state's thriving sugar beet industry. However, Iber notes, by the end of the twentieth century, Hispanics had become a notable part of Utah's population and could be found in all of its major cities working in tourist, industrial, and service occupations.

"The opportunity to find employment in the beet fields, mining towns, and railroad gangs has not been the only factor attracting Spanish-speakers to Utah," Iber writes. "Since the late 1910s the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has aggressively pursued converts among these people. These

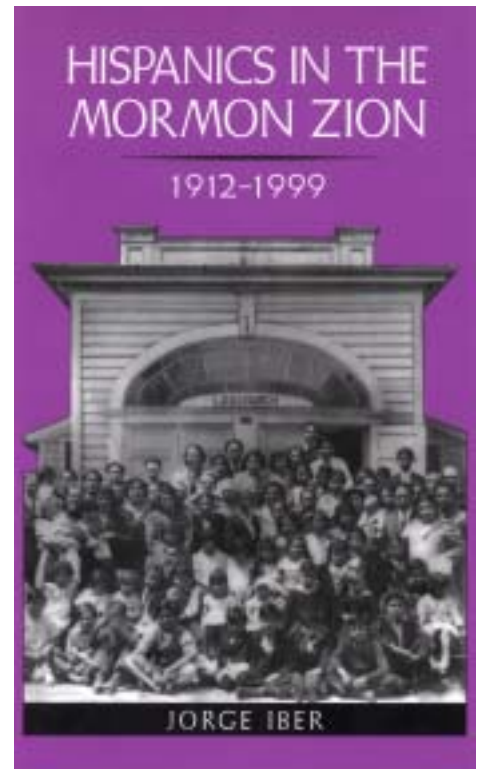
individuals encountered discrimination in their daily lives, but connection to the Mormon network afforded assistance and contacts unavailable to those of other denominations."

Iber focuses on why many in the Utah Hispanic *comunidad* left Catholicism for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and examines how this affected the Spanish-speaking population. He also looks at the impact of Hispanic believers on the Mormon Church; concentrates on the separation of Hispanics in Utah from their Mexican, Latin American, New Mexican, and Coloradoan roots; and examines patterns of Hispanic assimilation and acculturation in a setting that is vastly different from other states.

Drawing on University of Utah archives and notable organizations such as the American G.I. Forum, SOCIO, Centro de la Familia, the Salt Lake Catholic Diocese, and the Mormon Church, Iber has compiled an informative study that represents "another fragment in the expanding mosaic that is the history of the Spanish-speaking people of the United States."

**About the author:** Jorge Iber earned his Ph.D. at the University of Utah and now teaches at Texas Tech University, Lubbock.

*Hispanics in the Mormon Zion, 1912-1999* is available at stores or direct from Texas A&M University Press (800-826-8911 M-F



8-5 CT; secure online ordering at [www.tamu.edulupress](http://www.tamu.edulupress)). To schedule an interview with the author or for more information, contact Wendy Lawrence at 979-458-3982 or <[wjl@tampress.tamu.edu](mailto:wjl@tampress.tamu.edu)>.

## Jennifer Lopez Becomes Highest Paid Latina Actress

As the highest paid Latina actress in film history, Jennifer Lopez is ringing in the New Year on a high note.

Lopez, who got her start as a fly-girl on the Fox comedy show "In Living Color," was initially given the title by Allure magazine for receiving \$9 million to play a workaholic bridal consultant in the romantic comedy "The Wedding Planner."

Despite the achievement, however, Lopez still does not earn what her white counterparts in the film industry earn. Currently, the highest paid actress is Julia Roberts at \$20 million a movie, said Beth Altschull, special projects editor for Allure.

Latino performers have recently experienced a large increase in employment, according to the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) annual employment report. Latinos were cast in 4.4 percent of roles in 1999, up from 3.5 percent in 1998, according to the report.

"There are other famous Latina ac-

tresses —Salma Hayek, Rita Moreno— but clearly Jennifer is bigger than all of them, not only because she can open a movie and act, but because of her successful music career as well," Altschull said.

Her career took off when she was chosen to play the lead role in Selena, the 1997 film about the slain Tejano singer. Lopez has also racked up film credits in the 1997 summer thriller "Anaconda," Oliver Stone's film "Noir U Turn," Francis Ford Coppola's 1996 comedy "Jack" and "The Cell" this past summer. "The Cell" grossed over \$60 million, New Line Cinema's biggest hit of 2000.

In addition, Lopez was nominated for Best Dance Recording Grammy this year for "Let's Get Loud," off her album "On the 6."

## Latinos Gain Slightly in Acting Employment

According to casting data compiled by the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), jobs for Latinos actors in films and TV shows increased in 1999, while all other ethnic groups saw their numbers plummet.

Latino actors received 4.4 percent of all

speaking roles under SAG contracts, the highest percentage since SAG began tracking such information. They landed 2,185 roles in 1999 compared to 1,985 the year before, representing a 10 percent increase.

However, Latinos still remain grossly underrepresented in film and TV. "The numbers are positive, but in no way do they accurately reflect the percentage of the population," said Rick Dovalina, LULAC National President. "We still must work to increase the overall numbers and also to expand and diversify the roles available to Latinos."

## Esai Morales Joins Cast of "NYPD Blue"

Esai Morales, best known for his roles in the films "La Bamba" and "Mi Familia," has joined the Emmy Award winning show "NYPD Blue," as the new precinct head, Lt. Tony Rodriguez. The new character will be introduced sometime in late February or early March, and will evolve as an integral player on the show.